

Remarks

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action of **May 5, 2005**.
Reexamination and reconsideration of **claims 1-8, 13-20, and 23** is respectfully requested.

Summary of The Final Office Action

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-3, 13-14 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lynch et al. (US 6,581,097) in view of Armstrong (US 2002/0078083).

Claims 4, 6-7 and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lynch and Armstrong as applied to claims 1-3 and 13-14 above, and further in view of Kovnat et al. (US 5,619,649).

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lynch and Armstrong as applied to claims 1-3 and 13-14 above, and further in view of Thornton et al. (US 2002/0078130).

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lynch and Armstrong as applied to claims 1-3 and 13-14 above, and further in view of Morales, Jr. et al. (US 6,687,834).

Claims 17 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lynch and Armstrong as applied to claims 1-3 and 13-14 above, and further in view of Ferlitsch et al. (US 2002/0113989).

Claims 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lynch, Armstrong and Ferlitsch as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Morales, Jr. et al. (US 6,687,834).

Status of Drawings

The formal drawings filed with the application have not been indicated as accepted or rejected. Applicant believes the drawings fully comply with all drawing requirements and respectfully inquires whether the drawings are accepted.

§112 Rejections

Applicant amended claims 1, 6, 7, and 8 to correct all antecedent basis errors in each such claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and an indication that such claims are allowable. Additionally, Applicant amended claims 13 and 23 to correct antecedent basis errors therein.

The Present Claims Patentably Distinguish Over the References of Record

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 recites an apparatus comprising a job ticket service and a work flow controller. The job ticket service is configured to function as a centralized service for controlling access to original job tickets and controls modification of the original job tickets. The work flow controller is configured to separately assign one or more tasks from a single original job ticket to selected task processors by distributing a ticket copy of the single original job ticket and distributing a job ticket reference to each selected task processor that identifies the single original job ticket and the job ticket service, where the selected task processors can include an external service provider.

The combination of Lynch and Armstrong, however, does not teach each and every element of present claim 1. Particularly, Lynch and Armstrong both fail to teach updating the original job ticket associated with the job ticket reference based on the status update, such that the job ticket service controls the modification of the original ticket. Lynch instead teaches either creating a new job ticket or selecting an already created job ticket. This is particularly

well shown in FIGS. 3 and 4 in Lynch. The original job ticket, therefore, is not modified by the job ticket service control in Lynch.

The portions of Lynch identified in the office action as teaching updating the original job ticket associated with the job ticket reference do not teach the claimed updating. Instead, the cited portions teach the user making the modifications. For example, in Column 4, lines 64-67 and column 5, lines 1-6, and 22-29, Lynch discloses that statistical and process data can be used by InStream clients to manage the document creation process. There is, however, no mention of modifying the original job ticket.

Further, in column 5, lines 22-29, Lynch discloses that InStream clients comprise “reports 72 for producing print stream reports”, “inventory 74 for monitoring”, “accounting 76 for monitoring”, and “user interface 78 for monitoring”. Again, this does not teach modifying the original job ticket in the manner claimed. Finally, in column 7, lines 47-60, Lynch discloses that certain jobs are excluded. Again, there is no teaching of modifying the original job ticket.

Regarding the Armstrong reference, Armstrong does not disclose or teach updating the original job ticket associated with the job ticket reference based on the status update, such that the job ticket service controls the modification of the original ticket. Armstrong fails to update the original job ticket.

Additionally, none of the other cited references, Kovnat, Thornton, Morales, or Ferlitsch teaches or suggests the claimed updating the original job ticket associated with the job ticket, and therefore do not cure the deficiencies of Lynch and Armstrong noted above regarding claim 1.

Since claim 1 recites features not taught or suggested by the references, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the references. Accordingly, dependent **claims 2-8** also patentably distinguish over the references and are in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 13 and 23

Independent claims 13 and 23 recite updating job tickets similar to the features of claim 1. Particularly, claims 13 and 23 both recite updating the original job ticket associated with the

job ticket reference based on the status update, such that the job ticket service controls modification of the original job ticket. Therefore, Claims 13 and 23 also distinguish from the references for similar reasons as stated previously and are thus in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, none of the other cited references, Kovnat, Thornton, Morales, or Ferlitsch teaches or suggests the claimed updating, and therefore do not cure the deficiencies of Lynch and Armstrong noted previously. Thus, independent claims 13 and 23 patentably distinguish over the references of record individually, or in combination with each other.

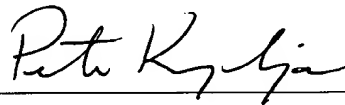
Since claims 13 and 23 recite features not taught or suggested by the references, their respective dependent **claims 14-20** also patentably distinguish over the references and are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, **claims 1-8, 13-20, and 23** patentably and unobviously distinguish over the references of record and are now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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